



House of Representatives

File No. 1013

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

(Reprint of File Nos. 749 and 982)

Substitute House Bill No. 6687
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedules "A" and "B"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 28, 2009

**AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION
STATUTES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-66gg of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Within available appropriations] On or before January 1, 2011, and
4 biennially thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall [annually,]
5 review and report, within available appropriations and in accordance
6 with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the operation of such charter
7 schools as may be established pursuant to sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff,
8 inclusive, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
9 having cognizance of matters relating to education. Such report shall
10 include: (1) Recommendations for any statutory changes that would
11 facilitate expansion in the number of charter schools; (2) a compilation
12 of school profiles pursuant to section 10-66cc; (3) an assessment of the
13 adequacy of funding pursuant to section 10-66ee; [] and (4) the
14 adequacy and availability of suitable facilities for such schools.

15 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-266w of the general statutes is
16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
17 *1, 2009*):

18 (d) Each local and regional board of education participating in the
19 grant program shall prepare a financial statement of expenditures
20 which shall be submitted to the department [on or before September
21 first of the fiscal year immediately following each fiscal year in which
22 the school district participates in the grant program] annually at such
23 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. If the
24 commissioner finds that any school breakfast grant recipient uses such
25 grant for purposes which are not in conformity with the purposes of
26 this section, the commissioner [may] shall require repayment of the
27 grant to the state.

28 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) Whenever the term "regional
29 vocational-technical school" or "regional vocational-technical schools"
30 is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes,
31 the term "technical high school" or "technical high schools" shall be
32 substituted in lieu thereof: 4-124ff, 4-124gg, 4a-11a, 4d-83, 5-275, 8-
33 265pp, 10-4h, 10-9, 10-19d, 10-20a, 10-21g, 10-66p, 10-67, 10-74d, 10-76q,
34 10-95, 10-95a, 10-95h, 10-95i, 10-95j, 10-95k, 10-95m, 10-95n, 10-97, 10-
35 98a, 10-214a, 10-215b, 10-215f, 10-220d, 10-233d, 10-235, 10-262r, 10-
36 264l, 10-266m, 10-283, 10-283b, 10-287d, 10a-12a, 10a-19b, 10a-72d, 17b-
37 610, 31-3c, 31-3h, 31-3k, 31-3l, 31-11p, 31-11s, 32-6j and 32-475.

38 (b) Whenever the term "vocational-technical school" or "vocational-
39 technical schools" is used or referred to in the following sections of the
40 general statutes, the term "technical high school" or "technical high
41 schools" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 1-79, 1-84d, 1-91, 4-124z, 4-
42 124hh, 10-15d, 10-19e, 10-21g, 10-69, 10-95, 10-95a, 10-95i, 10-95l, 10-
43 95m, 10-235, 10-262n, 10-262r, 10a-12a, 10a-25b, 17b-688i, 31-3ee and
44 31-51ww.

45 (c) Whenever the term "vocational school" or "vocational schools" is
46 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the

47 term "technical high school" or "technical high schools" shall be
48 substituted in lieu thereof: 4-29, 10-13, 10-55, 10-64, 10-97, 10-186, 10a-
49 123, 10a-166, 14-36, 20-90, 31-23, 31-24, 38a-682 and 48-9.

50 Sec. 4. Section 10-220h of the general statutes is repealed and the
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

52 When a student enrolls in a school in a new school district or in a
53 new state charter school, the new school district or new state charter
54 school shall provide written notification of such enrollment to the
55 school district in which the student previously attended school or the
56 state charter school the student previously attended not later than two
57 business days after the student registers. The school district in which
58 the student previously attended school or the state charter school that
59 the student previously attended (1) shall transfer the student's
60 education records to the new school district or new state charter school
61 no later than ten days after receipt of such notification, and (2) if the
62 student's parent or guardian did not give written authorization for the
63 transfer of such records, shall send notification of the transfer to the
64 parent or guardian at the same time that it transfers the records. In the
65 case of a student who transfers from Unified School District #1 or
66 Unified School District #2, the new school district or new state charter
67 school shall provide written notification of such enrollment to Unified
68 School District #1 or Unified School District #2 not later than ten days
69 after the date of enrollment, the unified school district shall, not later
70 than ten days after receipt of notification of enrollment from the new
71 school district or new state charter school, transfer [the] all records of
72 the student to the new school district or new state charter school and
73 the new school district or new state charter school shall, not later than
74 thirty days after receiving the student's education records, credit the
75 student for all instruction received in Unified School District #1 or
76 Unified School District #2.

77 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Adjutant General shall conduct a
78 study of the training received by members of the National Guard and
79 the similarities between such training and the professional training

80 required by state agencies or departments that issue licenses or
81 certifications. The study shall evaluate the effectiveness of a program
82 that would exempt such members from meeting the professional
83 training requirements for such licenses or certifications if the Adjutant
84 General and the agency or department jointly determine that the
85 training received by such members while serving in the National
86 Guard is substantially similar to the professional training required by
87 the licensing agency or department. On or before January 1, 2010, the
88 Adjutant General shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
89 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the select committee of the
90 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
91 affairs on the findings of the study.

92 Sec. 6. Subsection (g) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
93 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
94 *passage*):

95 (g) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to a
96 veteran of World War II, the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam Era,
97 pursuant to section 27-103, who left high school prior to graduation in
98 order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and did not
99 receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

100 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 10-212c of the general statutes is
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
102 *1, 2009*):

103 (b) Not later than July 1, 2006, each local and regional board of
104 education shall (1) implement a plan based on the guidelines
105 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for the
106 management of students with life-threatening food allergies enrolled
107 in the schools under its jurisdiction, (2) make such plan available on its
108 web site or the web site of each school under such board's jurisdiction,
109 provided any such web site exists, or otherwise make such plan
110 publicly available, and (3) provide notice of such plan to students and
111 parents upon request.

112 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
113 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
114 *1, 2009*):

115 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
116 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school
117 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department
118 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,
119 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and
120 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head
121 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet
122 such standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The
123 department shall establish standards for school readiness programs.
124 The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for
125 staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy
126 development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications
127 and training, transition to school and administration. The department
128 shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for
129 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation
130 with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social Services and
131 other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing education
132 training program for the staff of school readiness programs. For
133 purposes of this section, prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications"
134 means there is in each classroom an individual who has at least the
135 following: (1) A childhood development associate credential [issued
136 by] or an equivalent credential issued by an organization approved by
137 the Commissioner of Education, and [nine credits or more, and on and
138 after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early childhood education
139 or child development, as determined by the Commissioner of
140 Education, after consultation with the Commissioners of Higher
141 Education and Social Services, from an institution of higher education
142 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or
143 regionally accredited; (2) an associate's degree with [nine credits or
144 more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early
145 childhood education or child development, as determined by the

146 Commissioner of Education, after consultation with the
 147 Commissioners of Higher Education and Social Services, from such an
 148 institution; (3) a four-year degree with [nine credits or more, and on
 149 and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early childhood
 150 education or child development, as determined by the Commissioner
 151 of Education, after consultation with the Commissioners of Higher
 152 Education and Social Services, from such an institution; or (4)
 153 certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early
 154 childhood education, [or special education,] and on and after July 1,
 155 2015, "staff qualifications" means [there is in each classroom an
 156 individual who has at least the following: (A) A bachelor's degree in
 157 early childhood education or childhood development, or in a related
 158 field approved by the Commissioner of Education from an institution
 159 of higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
 160 Education or regionally accredited; or (B) certification pursuant to
 161 section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or
 162 special education] for each program accepting school readiness funds
 163 that (A) at least fifty per cent of its teachers (i) hold certification
 164 pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood
 165 education, or (ii) hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher
 166 education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education
 167 or regionally accredited, (B) the remaining teachers hold an associate
 168 degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board
 169 of Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited, and (C) all
 170 such teachers described in subparagraph (A)(ii) and subparagraph (B)
 171 of this subdivision have completed a program of study approved by
 172 the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66gg
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-266w(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-220h
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-221a(g)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-212c(b)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-16p(b)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Savings	None	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a minimal savings, in FY 11, as the State Department of Education (SDE) has to produce the report on the operation of charter schools biennially, rather than annually.

The bill makes various other procedural changes that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

“House A and House B” make procedural changes that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6687 (as amended by House "A" and "B")******AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes a number of changes to the education statutes. It:

1. requires the report on the operation of charter schools that the education commissioner must annually submit to the Education Committee, to instead be submitted biennially, beginning January 1, 2011;
2. requires boards of education participating in the school breakfast program to submit a financial statement on the program annually in the time and manner the commissioner requires, rather than by September 1 of the next year, and requires, rather than allows, the commissioner to require repayment to the state of funds inappropriately spent;
3. replaces the term "regional vocational-technical school" with "technical high school" throughout the statutes;
4. applies the records transfer rules applicable to Unified School District #1 (Department of Correction) to Unified School District #2 (Department of Children and Families) and, in the case of other districts and state charter schools, requires that notice of student transfer to a new school be sent to the previous school district within two business days of the student's registration;
5. requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt regulations to enhance school nurse qualifications;

6. requires the adjutant general of the National Guard to study whether to exempt guard members from certain state professional licensing and training requirements based on their National Guard training;
7. allows boards of education to award high school diplomas to Korean Conflict and Vietnam era veterans who left high school before graduation to serve in the armed forces, as they can already for WWII veterans;
8. requires boards of education to make their life threatening food allergy plan on their, or each school's web sites, or otherwise publicly available and provide notice of the plan's existence to students and parents upon request; and
9. changes school readiness staff qualifications, including reducing the qualifications required starting July 1, 2015, giving the education commissioner authority to determine if credits meet subject area requirements, and eliminating individual classroom requirements.

*House Amendment "A" adds the provisions on the veterans' diploma, food allergy plan, and school readiness staff qualifications.

*House Amendment "B" adds the National Guard study provision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009, except for the provisions on the charter school report, records transfer, veterans' diploma, and National Guard study, which are effective on passage.

RECORDS TRANSFER

By law, when a student enrolls in a school in a new school district or state charter school, the new district or school must provide written notification of enrollment to the student's previous school district or the state charter school. The bill specifies that this must be done within two business days after the student's registration. By law, the records must be transferred to the new school within 10 days of receiving the

notification.

By law, if a student transfers from Unified School District #1, the new school district or charter school must provide notice of enrollment to the unified district within 10 days of such enrollment. The unified district has 10 days to transfer the records after it receives the notification. The new district or charter school has 30 days to credit the student for all instruction received in the unified school district. The bill applies these provisions to Unified School District #2.

SCHOOL NURSE REQUIREMENTS

The bill requires the SBE to adopt regulations requiring each school nurse to:

1. be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation,
2. have at least two years of full-time working experience as a registered nurse during the five-year period immediately before the date of employment as a school nurse, and
3. maintain a valid Connecticut nursing license.

The bill requires the regulations to exempt nurses employed by schools before July 1, 2009 from everything but the license requirement. Additionally, if a public school is staffed by a full-time nurse or nurse practitioner who meets all of the requirements, the bill allows boards of education to appoint or employ an additional nurse at the school who does not meet the experience requirement.

NATIONAL GUARD STUDY

The bill requires the adjutant general of the National Guard to study the training its members receive and the similarities between the training and the professional training required by state agencies or departments that issue licenses or certifications. The study must evaluate the effectiveness of a program to exempt the members from meeting the professional training requirements for such licenses or certifications if the adjutant general and the licensing agency or

department jointly determine that the members' training while serving in the National Guard is substantially similar to the agency or department's training. The adjutant general must report the findings to the Veterans' Affairs Committee by January 1, 2010.

SCHOOL READINESS STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Pre-2015 Requirements

By law, until July 1, 2015, there has to be a person in each school readiness classroom with (1) at least 12 early childhood education or child development credits from an accredited higher education institution and (a) a credential issued by a commissioner-approved organization, (b) an associate's degree, or (c) a four-year degree or (2) a teaching certificate with an early childhood or special education endorsement.

The bill specifies that the commissioner-approved organization must issue a childhood development associate credential or its equivalent. Additionally, it specifies that the education commissioner, after consulting with the higher education and social services commissioners, must determine if the credits meet the subject area requirements. Finally, it eliminates the option of a teaching certificate with a special education endorsement to meet the requirements.

New Requirements Starting July 1, 2015

Starting on July 1, 2015, the law requires each classroom to have a person with (1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited higher education institution in early childhood education, child development, or a related commissioner-approved field or (2) a teaching certificate with a special education or early childhood endorsement.

The bill eliminates these requirements. Instead, it requires half of the teachers in programs accepting school readiness funds to have (1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited higher education institution or (2) a teaching certificate with an early childhood education endorsement. The remaining teachers must have an associate's degree from an accredited higher education institution. Teachers meeting the

requirement based on their bachelor's or associate's degree must have completed a program of study approved by the education and higher education commissioners.

BACKGROUND

Current School Nurse Regulations

In order to qualify as a school nurse, each nurse or nurse practitioner must:

1. be a registered professional nurse, designated as R.N. and currently licensed in Connecticut;
2. have at least the equivalent of one year full-time working experience as a registered nurse within five years immediately prior to employment as a school nurse; and
3. have academic preparation to include 12 credits at a licensed or accredited institution of higher learning, 18 continuing education units, or 180 workshop or in-service hours meeting certain distribution requirements (Conn. Agency Regs. § 10-212-2).

Legislative History

On May 5, 2009, the House referred the bill to the Public Health Committee which reported a substitute, eliminating new education, continuing education, and certification requirements for school nurses and adding the provision exempting additional school nurses from meeting the experience requirement.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 28 Nay 2 (04/01/2009)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 23 Nay 7 (05/12/2009)

